

Town Meeting Coordinating Committee

Meeting of Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Bangs Community Center, Lower Meeting Room

Attendance: Peggy Roberts, Nonny Burack, Rob Crowner, Adrienne Terrizzi, Harry Brooks, Mary Streeter; absent: Carol Gray. Guest: John Musante.

1. Call to order: Peggy calls the meeting to order at 3:48pm.

2. Town Meeting member nominations: Nonny states that she will arrange for postcards to be printed, hopefully by the town. The committee will purchase cardstock if necessary. Nonny will organize an addressing party in a town building soon after the new year. Mary will also send a reminder to the Town Meeting listserv. The nomination deadline is February 8.

The committee briefly discusses the upcoming precinct redistricting, which could wreck havoc on TMCC membership.

3. Meeting with Town Manager: The committee and the town manager review the list of issues developed at the committee's last meeting.

The committee requests expanded ACTV coverage of town government meetings, especially Zoning Subcommittee and Budget Coordinating Group meetings and other special events during the runup to Town Meeting. The town manager's office can help prioritize the use of the Town Room for those meetings that will be covered, including moving regularly scheduled meetings to other rooms with sufficient notice. The committee requests that the rebroadcast schedule for town government meetings be aired on ACTV as well as on the ACTV website.

The town manager agrees to investigate possible improvements to the internal amplification of speakers in the Town Room, including changing the placement of amplifiers or adding one or more new amplifiers, though it is noted that amplification potentially creates feedback on the broadcast.

The committee requests the timely release of election results even if write-in candidacies have not yet been resolved. The town manager states that the town clerk has requested a single point of contact with TMCC, to whom interim results can be released as they become official. Mary volunteers to serve in that role.

The committee requests more outreach by planning staff on difficult zoning articles.

The town manager's office will accept agendas and post meetings on behalf of TMCC until a software upgrade that will enable this to be done directly from the town website is completed by IT staff.

The town manager states that "Town Meeting planning meetings" are logistical in nature rather than public meetings; as such, he prefers to invite single liaisons from relevant committees and not allow additional observers. Each committee, including TMCC, can delegate whomever it chooses to attend the meeting, and not necessarily the same person each time.

The town manager states that the Town Meeting webpage is heavily used by town staff, since it collects various pieces of information in a single location. He suggests that TMCC encourage greater use of the town website and subscription services by Town Meeting members. He suggests that TMCC should help provide support for petitioners to Town Meeting, including coaching and counseling. He agrees to provide TMCC's fact sheet for petitioners as a handout in the Town Manager/Select Board office. [Note: "Petition articles" is proposed as a topic for a future informational forum.]

The town manager states that the 2010 federal census results will be available in April. The reprecincting process is described in the Town Government Act; it will be completed before the Spring 2012 election, when all Town Meeting seats will be up for election. It is also an opportunity to reconsider polling places. The town manager states that TMCC will have a role in the reprecincting process.

4. Upcoming meetings: The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 25, 2011 in the Romer Room at Town Hall.

5. Adjournment: The meeting is adjourned at 4:49pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Rob Crowner

Documents provided:

1. agenda
2. draft minutes of December 13 meeting